

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A biocompatible degradable composite material, comprising:
~~characterized in that it consists of~~

a degradable biocompatible ~~phosphocalcium and/or~~ calcium sulfate matrix,
said matrix containing magnetic particles, wherein the magnetic particles have a
particle size between 0.001 μm to 10 μm ,

said material being found as a slurry during its introduction into an [[the]] organism,
as a solid subsequently, and said matrix being resorbed within a period of eight ~~a few days to~~
~~a few weeks.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein the material
~~characterized in that it further comprises: consists of~~

a degradable biocompatible polymer matrix comprising a polymer selected from
collagen, polylactic and glycolic acids, polydioxanone, polyfumarate, polyanhydrides,
polyorthoesters, polyurethanes, polyphosphazenes, polycaprolactone, polyhydroxybutyrate,
polyhydroxy-valerate, polyvalerolactone, polytartronic and polymalonic acid;

wherein the polymer matrix includes the ~~containing~~ magnetic particles.

6. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~
said matrix has biocompatibility and degradation characteristics compatible with applications
of the material for treating bone tumors.

7. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the magnetic particles contain iron ~~a metal, notably iron, preferably as ferrites: magnetite or maghemite or any other ferro-, ferri-magnetic, meta- or anti-ferromagnetic inorganic material.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said particles consist of an organomineral composite containing an iron, ferrite core, or core of any other magnetic compound coated with polymer as a thin layer or as polymeric chains having a free end.

9. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said magnetic particles are selected from a group consisting of vectors ~~either~~ of a molecule used in chemotherapy and vectors of ~~[[or]]~~ an isotope.

10. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said particles have a particle size between 0.001 and 0.1 μm .

11. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said particles have a particle size between 0.1 and 10 μm .

12. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein the matrix is capable of forming a mineral matrix releasing the magnetic particles according to kinetics compatible with ~~[[their]]~~ internalization of the magnetic particles by cells of ~~[[from]]~~ neighboring tissues.

13. (Currently Amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ particles are coated with a calcium phosphate layer containing a fluorescent element ~~such as europium.~~

14. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a material according to claim 1, comprising mixing of a magnetic particle powder with a calcium sulfate or phosphate mineral powder, in an aqueous solution until a slurry is formed, and hardening said slurry for a few minutes to a few hours.

15. (Withdrawn) The method for preparing a material according to claim 10, further comprising a step for preparing said particles by hydrothermal synthesis in a reactor by injecting a FeCl_2 solution, adding deaerated water containing NaOH, the mixture being placed under nitrogen flow and brought to a temperature between 50°C and 100°C , replacing nitrogen with compressed air until ferrites are obtained.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for diagnosing bone cancers comprising administering to a subject the material of claim 1 as a tracer for MRI-detectable tumor cells and tracking migrating tumor cells that take up the tracer in order to be able to treat sites at infraclinic stages.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for tracing tumor cells in a subject having ingested the material of claim 1 after desalting from said degradable and biocompatible material by means of MRI, electronic microscopy, confocal microscopy, or fluorescence microscopy.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 wherein the treatment is for treating bone tumors.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18 wherein the treatment is for targeted thermolysis of cancer cells.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, characterized in that the magnetic particles once inside the cells are intended to be heated in a magnetic field which may be produced by a nuclear magnetic resonance imaging apparatus or any other generator.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein the treatment is combined with radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy.

22. (New) The material according to claim 1, wherein the matrix is resorbed within a period of a few days to four weeks.

23. (New) The material according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic particles have a particle size between 0.05 μm to 0.1 μm .
24. (New) The material according to claim 1, wherein magnetic particles contain a ferrite.
25. (New) The material according to claim 24, wherein the ferrite is magnetite, maghemite, or a ferro-, ferri-magnetic, meta- or anti-ferromagnetic inorganic material.
26. (New) The material according to claim 13, wherein the fluorescent element is europium.